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During the Elizabethan period, fathers arranged marriages for their daughters. Although this left the young women with no say regarding their future, it seemed that Lord Capulet was different. He seemed negotiable towards matters concerning his daughter’s marriage. However, any leniency he had before vanished in Act 3 Scene 5. Capulet’s sudden change of mind results in Juliet’s disobedience, which causes a deep rift in their relationship.

The interaction between Capulet and Juliet highlights the change in Capulet’s attitude towards his daughter. In Act 1 Scene 2, Capulet was very considerate of his daughter’s will, and willing to listen to what she had to say. However, the moment she turns down marriage to Paris, Capulet resorts to crude methods. He threatens to “drag [her] on a hurdle thither” (3.5.160) to Saint Peter’s Church, while using aggressive and offensive language. For example, “Out, you green-sickness carrion!... you baggage!... you tallow face” (3.5.161-162). Without listening to Juliet’s respectful pleas, he expels her from his household and snaps at the nurse before storming away. Capulet has let his emotions cloud his better judgment. It is evident that Juliet’s defiance and having his authority as head of the house questioned has exposed a vulgar, impulsive, and unreasonable side of Capulet.

The father-daughter relationship between Capulet and Juliet is collapsing. Juliet did not originally have a good relationship with her parents. We can see from previous scenes that her mother does not care much for Juliet, as she is uncomfortable talking with her daughter alone. From Capulet’s decisions during the play, we can see that he does not think about Juliet either. Capulet is eager to engage in fights, risking his life, and does not consider the impact the possible consequences may have on his daughter. Obviously, Juliet and her parents are not close emotionally. However, Capulet was trying to change this. We can see form Act 1 Scene 2 that Capulet is trying to build a relationship with his daughter. We know this by the way he tells Paris to take his time with Juliet and really make her fall in love with him. In Elizabethan times, the man of the house could make the woman do anything, and get married to whom ever they wanted, but this was not the case with Capulet. He is giving his daughter some consent in marriage. He is working on building a strong relationship with Juliet, but when Juliet refuses to marry Paris, his opinions suddenly change. “…we have a curse in having her” (3.5.174). This quote comes from Capulet talking to his wife about Juliet. We can see how his opinion and his relationship with Juliet have suddenly changed. This may have happened because he feels betrayed. He gave Juliet the option to be independent and marry whom she wants, and he hoped that she would now choose Paris. But he was disappointed. He was trying to establish happiness between them, and now he feels backstabbed because she contributing to the happiness. He is old and wise, but now he is starting to act like Romeo, like a child, and letting his emotions effect his decisions. This is why he acts in anger and hatred against Juliet in Act 3 Scene 5; because he feels that he was trying to create a healthy relationship, but she did not make enough effort.

This scene introduces a change in Juliet’s behavior towards her father. She remains polite and respectful, saying things like “Good father, I beseech you on my knees” (3.5.164). However, the fact still stands that she has disrespected and defied her father with her refusal to marry Paris. Her love for Romeo overpowers her duty to obey her father. Before she met Romeo, there was no reason to not consider marrying Paris, however, now that she has met her true love, nothing can change her mind. Her previous actions have left her with only one way to react to her father’s request: Make him change his mind about the arranged marriage. However, her efforts are feeble and as a last resort, she seeks help from the Friar. “I’ll to the Friar to know his remedy./If all else fail, myself have power to die” (3.5.254-255) This quote shows how independent she has become since meeting Romeo. It also shows how much Romeo means to her since she is again, endangering her own life for him.

The carefully built relationship between Juliet and her father has deteriorated as a result of Juliet and Capulet’s lack of understanding and communication. Juliet’s newfound independence contradicts the decisions Capulet has tried to make for Juliet and her future, and further develops the gap between youth and age. Juliet’s independence has been strengthened by her love for Romeo and she learns to take matters into her own hands. Her father’s behavior has driven Juliet further from reason, making this scene a crucial turning point that will later result in the tragic outcome of Romeo and Juliet’s twisted romance.